GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1973
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2000
TRANSPARENCY IN SELECTION NORMS OF ARMY
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reported suicide by two cadets at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, thisyear, has brought Indian Army's selection process for officers into sharp focus as published in the Hindustan Times dated September 8, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to streamline Army's selection norms; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): The selection system, adopted in the Army, is time-tested and by far, one of the best. This system is constantly evaluated and revised. The interview is based on Psychological Principles and is conducted over a period of five days. The officers posted to Service Selection Boards i.e. Interviewing Officer, Psychologist and Group Testing Officer are, specially, selected and trained, prior to their posting to the centres. However, an inquiry has been ordered into the matter and corrective measures would be taken, if found necessary, after its completion.